

30 September 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Carrier borne A-12's

25X1A On Friday, 27 September, Mr. Cunningham reviewed for me the events  
leading up to the Navy involvement in the A-12 program. It stems from  
a recent meeting between Kelly Johnson, Mr. Cunningham, and Capt.  
25X1A [ ] at LAC at which time the question was raised as to the capability  
of future planned carriers to handle large aircraft. Initially it was  
not put in the context of the A-12, but eventually reached that stage.  
[ ] response that vehicles up to 100,000 lbs. could  
probably be launched at designated speeds and that gross weights up to  
50,000 lbs. and 3.8 g could be arrested elicited the comment from  
Kelly Johnson that, with some feasible changes which he suggested and  
which, if applied now, would only mean changes to drawings, the concept  
would be workable. The entire discussion was placed in the frame of  
reference of these changes being logical changes for the Navy in that  
25X1A they should keep current with aircraft state-of-the-art to support  
advanced aircraft regardless of the program. [ ] requested  
that Admiral Thatch be briefed so that the specific requests to  
BuShip designers to study the changes would come from him and would be  
done without questions.

25X1A Subsequently it was requested that Secretary Korth be briefed  
because he had to sign a report to McNamara about the A-12 from  
carriers. However, in talking with Gene Kiefer later, he said he had  
the document to sign and it was a one page report in effect saying,  
"there's nothing like A-12's off of a carrier". I asked Gene who  
wrote the report, and he said he didn't know!

NAVY review(s) completed.